

Last week Gov. Dannel Malloy released a proposed budget for the state of CT that follows the austerity model of republican governors in states like Kansas & Michigan. This budget doesn't ask our most affluent residents to pay their fair share but instead shifts the burden to municipalities who will proceed to raise property taxes on those that can least afford it. This budget includes cuts to town funding, social services and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. 350 CT stands with the underserved people of CT, those trying to protect our air & water, and towns who see their funds constantly reduced to say : We need a new financial direction in our state which prioritizes people's health & safety over protecting the wealth of a few.

This proposed budget looks similar to proposals by Republican governors which have led to high deficits, more cuts and more inequality. It would be the first step in spiraling us downward toward emergency managers, bankrupt schools and failing infrastructure. These are the exact conditions that have led to the poisoning of the people of Flint, where the governor cut taxes, slashed the budget and encouraged switching away from a safe water system to save money. We cannot protect the people of environmental justice communities like Bridgeport and Hartford or preserve our coastline threatened by climate change while cutting the regulatory agencies and town funding. Every attempt, across the United States & the world, to solve debt and deficit issues through cuts only have failed and led to dire consequences.

Here in CT we have an opportunity to forge a new direction. Instead of locking a revenue structure and then cutting to fit , we need to understand the services and infrastructure needed and then look to those who can most afford it to support their state. We need to transition to 100% renewable energy as soon as possible and those that have had free pass to pollute our air for decades have the responsibility to mitigate the damage they have caused. Pres. Obama recognized this recently by proposing a fee on oil production to support a clean transportation system. CT should tax fossil fuels to build a mass transit system that supports the majority of residents instead of spending state money to widen I-95 that would serve the affluent and interstate traffic that pollutes our communities.

350 CT is anxious to join with others who oppose austerity measures and look to preserve health, safety, services, and jobs, while moving to rapidly transition to a 100% renewable energy system and equitable green mass transit for all. Those who have profited from inequality, cutbacks, and pollution owe this to the people of CT and it is way overdue.

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